



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### LIFELINE AWARENESS WEEK

- WHEREAS: In today's highly interconnected world, voice and broadband access provide lifelines to emergency help and serve as vital links to community resources, government services, friends and family. However, a significant number of households are unable to afford a voice or broadband connection, and therefore remain disconnected from the telecommunications network; and
- WHEREAS: The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Georgia Public Service Commission have joined in a collaborative effort to lower the costs of voice and broadband services for low-income consumers and those who receive the Veterans Pension benefit by providing discounts on connection fees and monthly charges, thereby reaching a greater number of consumers; and
- WHEREAS: The Lifeline Assistance program offers benefits for eligible citizens and makes basic voice service or broadband service more affordable; and
- WHEREAS: The FCC established Enhanced Link-Up and Lifeline programs for Tribal Lands and recently updated its rules governing Lifeline program eligibility and non-duplication of support. In recent years, the Lifeline program has been reformed to improve program efficiency and eliminate fraud, waste, and abuse, thereby ensuring that only those eligible are receiving this vital support; and
- WHEREAS: The FCC, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates, other state and federal agencies, cities, counties, organizations, and telecommunications companies are committed to increasing awareness of the availability of the Link-Up and Lifeline programs and encouraging enrollment among eligible citizens; and
- WHEREAS: During Lifeline Awareness Week, government agencies, industry leaders, and consumer advocates are encouraged to build awareness regarding the importance of connectivity; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim September 10–14, 2018, as LIFELINE AWARENESS WEEK in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 31<sup>st</sup> day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Chris W. Riley*

CHIEF OF STAFF